

**WILLIAM ROCKHILL  
NELSON GALLERY OF  
ART and MARY ATKINS  
MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS**

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**GALLERY NEWS**





GALLERY NEWS  
May 1943

TEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS:

Contemporary Dutch Painting: For the month of May, the Central and North Loan Galleries will exhibit the paintings of contemporary Dutch artists, a field which has been too little known to American gallery visitors. The present showing was assembled for the Golden Gate Exposition in San Francisco and is now being circulated under the auspices of the Netherlands Government.

The exhibition will be opened on Sunday, May 2nd, with a special program at three-thirty in the Atkins Auditorium. Complete details of the program are not yet available as this bulletin is being prepared, but it will consist of music, and motion pictures of Holland and the Netherlands East and West Indies. Mr. Willard C. Wichers of the Netherlands Information Bureau at Holland, Michigan, will be present, as well as the Honorable William A. Hannon, Netherlands Consul for Kansas City.

Holland has given to the world of art some of its greatest figures - Rembrandt, Hals, Vermeer, Van Gogh - and its fine landscape and genre painters of the 17th Century have had great influence on later schools of other countries. Dutch artists of the 19th century participated in the various revolutionary movements in the world of art, but such groups as "The Hague School" of Impressionism remained unmistakably Dutch in their bold realism. In our own time, one of the best integrated groups of painters, artists, architects and practical designers could be found in "De Stijl", led by Piet Mondrian, the abstractionist, and J. J. P. Oud, the architect. Their paintings and architectural designs have had widespread influence on modern art forms in Europe and America.

The present exhibition indicates the wide range of individual style and expression produced in the art of a free people, at liberty to make use of the traditions of the past or abandon them for new inventions of the present. Finely painted still-life canvases or homely interiors rub shoulders

with symbolist expressionism or the purely abstract designs of Mondrian. Among the artists represented are Professor W. van den Berg, Lizzie Ansing, Joep Nicholas, Ernst van Leyden, Hendrick Willem van Loon, H. H. Kammerlingh-Onnes, Karin van Leyden and others. A catalog has been prepared and proceeds of its sale go to the Queen Wilhemina Fund.

Special attention is called to the Dutch paintings in the permanent collection in Galleries 6, 10 and 12.

Sculpture by Irene Hamar of Brazil: Gallery 30 will feature for the month of May an exhibition of the work of Irene Hamar, the Brazilian sculptress. Mlle. Hamar's sculpture, which is well known in both Brazil and the Argentine, is being introduced to our country by this exhibition of fifteen pieces. The exhibition opened in New York under the auspices of the Brazilian government and has traveled across the country.

Mlle. Hamar, who is now twenty-nine years old, studied in Paris with Bourdelle. There is wide variety in her work, with more than one distinct medium of expression. Several pieces are decorative stylizations; others are realistic portraits; others heroic and classic in tempo. Mlle. Hamar is a serious and thoughtful artist who attacks each problem with boldness. The pieces include both bronze and stone and illustrate the different techniques possible in the realm of sculpture.

WEDNESDAY EVENING LECTURES: The final lectures in the winter series of French 19th and 20th Century Painting will take place on the evenings of May 5th and 12th. The tragic young Italian, Amadeo Modigliani, the whimsical Russian-born Marc Chagall and Chiam Soutine of the impudent portraits will be discussed on May 5th. The closing lecture will be devoted to Surrealism and the



various social and psychological trends which led to it. Following the lecture, the audience is cordially invited to join the Staff in the Mezzanine tea-room for light refreshments.

FRIDAY EVENING GALLERY TALKS: The loan exhibitions for the month of May will be the subjects of two of the regular Friday evening talks which precede the concerts. On May 7th, Miss Jackson will discuss the exhibition of Contemporary Dutch Art, and on the third Friday, May 21st, Miss Kem will talk on the exhibition of sculptures by the Brazilian sculptress, Irene Hamar.

The second and fourth Fridays will be devoted to talks on the newly installed Persian exhibition in Gallery XXVI. This important exhibition includes Persian rugs and bookbindings. Miss Hughes will discuss the rugs on Friday, May 14th; the bookbinding on May 28th.

The talks, as usual, will be at 7:45 o'clock. A list of the concerts following them may be found in the calendar on page nine.

GALLERY CHANGES:

Gallery XIV: No masterpiece will be featured for the month of May. Instead, the series of European drawings from the Permanent Collection will be returned to Gallery XIV. The drawings are interesting and important not only in themselves, but also as a basis for study of the techniques which grew up in Europe from the late 15th through the early 19th centuries. A sound sense of draughtsmanship underlies every great technique, and painting traditions are founded upon structural use of line. Many of the European artists were sheer masters in this realm. Their work contains charm as well as power. The contrasting traditions of Italy, France and Holland may be studied from the works of Perugino, Tiepolo, Claude, Ingres, Steen, Van der Velde and others who will be represented.

Gallery XXVI: The exhibition of textiles recovered from Chinese tombs, originally planned to

terminate the first of April, was held over for another month. The court, theatre and temple robes of the 18th and 19th centuries, belonging to Mr. and Mrs. Walter Beck of New York, previously announced for April exhibition, will be shown in a display opening the fourth of May.

Gallery XXIV: Oriental Rugs from the collection of Dumbarton Oaks, the estate in Washington, D.C. which was presented to Harvard University, will be shown in Gallery 24 beginning the first of May. These rugs are chiefly Persian, with examples included of Hispanic, Egyptian and Turkish and Indian carpets. One rarely has an opportunity to enjoy a group of 16th Century rugs as examples are rare from this early period, the height of rug weaving.

At the same time, through the generosity of Mr. Kirkor Minassian of New York City, we will show that gentleman's excellent collection of leather bookbindings made in Persia, Arabia and Egypt during the 15th and 16th centuries. This group was shown at the Persian Exhibition which the Iranian Institute held in New York in 1940. It is a privilege of which the Gallery is most appreciative, to be allowed to exhibit these two collections of Islamic rugs and bookbindings.

FRIENDS OF ART: The May meeting of the Study Group of the Friends of Art will be held at 11 o'clock on Thursday, the 20th, in Gallery 16. The subject will be French paintings of the 19th and 20th centuries and, as in the April meeting, various members will present discussions of the artists under consideration.

THE FIRST TEN YEARS - DEPARTMENT OF JUNIOR EDUCATION: When the Gallery opened in December of 1933, the feeling was already strong that the children of Kansas City should be educated to look upon it as a friendly place and art in general as something to be enjoyed and used. That the children shared this feeling was soon made enthusiastically apparent, for the first Saturday afternoon story hours in the Spring of 1934 were immediately extended to include a morning session



as well, and during the summer regular classes in crafts, drawing and marionette making were added to the curriculum, supervised by Miss Frances Askew. In the Fall of 1934, a department of Junior Education was organized, under the direction of Miss Frances O'Donnell, and Kansas City's children were invited to attend Saturday morning classes. They did - some 900 of them - to the consternation of the newly-formed department. Today, the supervised activities handle about 46,000 children per year and take it as a matter of course.

The Winter of 1934-35 instituted the Public School Art Appreciation Program, formulated with the co-operation of the Board of Education and planned to correlate school work with Gallery visits. Through it, all Sixth Grade children visit the Gallery for a lesson in the techniques of Painting, Sculpture, Weaving and Glass and Pottery making. They see an actual demonstration of the technique and visit the collections concerned, led by specially trained guides. Before each visit, they are given preparatory material, provided by the Gallery and the School Board, and the volunteer guides from the Arts Committee of the Junior League are given a two-week training course by the Department. All this was not achieved, of course, as easily as it sounds and the first two years were ones of trial and error. It is a matter of some pride, therefore, that the system as now worked out has been studied by other museums and similar courses adopted elsewhere.

In the winter of 1935-36, a like program was requested by the Board of Education for Seventh Grade American History study and again volunteer guides were trained. The two courses contact between five and six thousand children each year - not once, but from two to four times. This type of program naturally needed some explaining and justification to parents, as it means car-fare and time out from regular classes. For this purpose, the Gallery Staff made hundreds of talks to Parent-Teacher groups during the first few years, as well as taking slide lectures to High School students who could not be so easily organized for regular Gallery visits.

In the meantime, the Saturday and Summer classes had been undergoing further organization, with the enrollment limited to 250 children. In 1936 the Little Museum for Young Moderns was organized as an outgrowth of a definite need to interest the older children who were "graduating" from the usual class work. It is operated by a staff entirely of children and holds monthly exhibitions in a room set aside for it. Through its operation, the children learn gallery methods and two of its former staff members have been sufficiently interested to plan their college educations around a museum career.

Space, unfortunately, forbids a complete review of the department's growth and only a few of the highlights can be mentioned here - any staff member will be glad to explain more fully Drawing for Fun; the Game Tray; who the Junior Docents are; the Settlement House Extension Work; how the Lower Grade Tours make geography live for the little children; about the high school scholarship course in techniques; the trials and hilarity of an Easter Egg Rolling which attracted 13,000 visitors; or the day guide service was provided simultaneously for 1,000 out-of-town school children. Anyone interested in the Saturday afternoon programs which were inaugurated in the fall of 1940, has only to visit the Atkins Auditorium any Saturday between October and May.

Since 1939, the Department has been under the direction of Miss Louise Nelson with a staff varying from two to four full-time workers. Needless to say, the program would have been impossible without the willing and able assistance of numerous volunteers and a few trained part-time instructors. Of necessity the wartime activities, while still maintaining the general scope, have been stream-lined to fit difficulties of transportation and diminishing personnel. For instance, for the present the sixth grade program has been reduced to two annual visits, condensing the subjects usually given in four. The need for constructive recreation has grown rather than decreased under war-time strain and the Gallery,



along with its sister institutions, is making every effort to fill it.

MUSIC NOTES: In addition to the regular Sunday afternoon and Friday night concerts, there will be two Wednesday evening programs, following the close of the lecture series. Attention is also called to the special Monday evening concert by James O'Connor, pianist, pupil of Wiktor Labunski, on May 17th and the Tuesday evening concert by Miss Betsy Walters on May 18th. Entrance to these special openings will be through the East doors and the general public is invited.

SUMMER CLASSES FOR CHILDREN: Complete announcement of these will be made in the June issue, as there is still some uncertainty as to the closing date of the public schools.

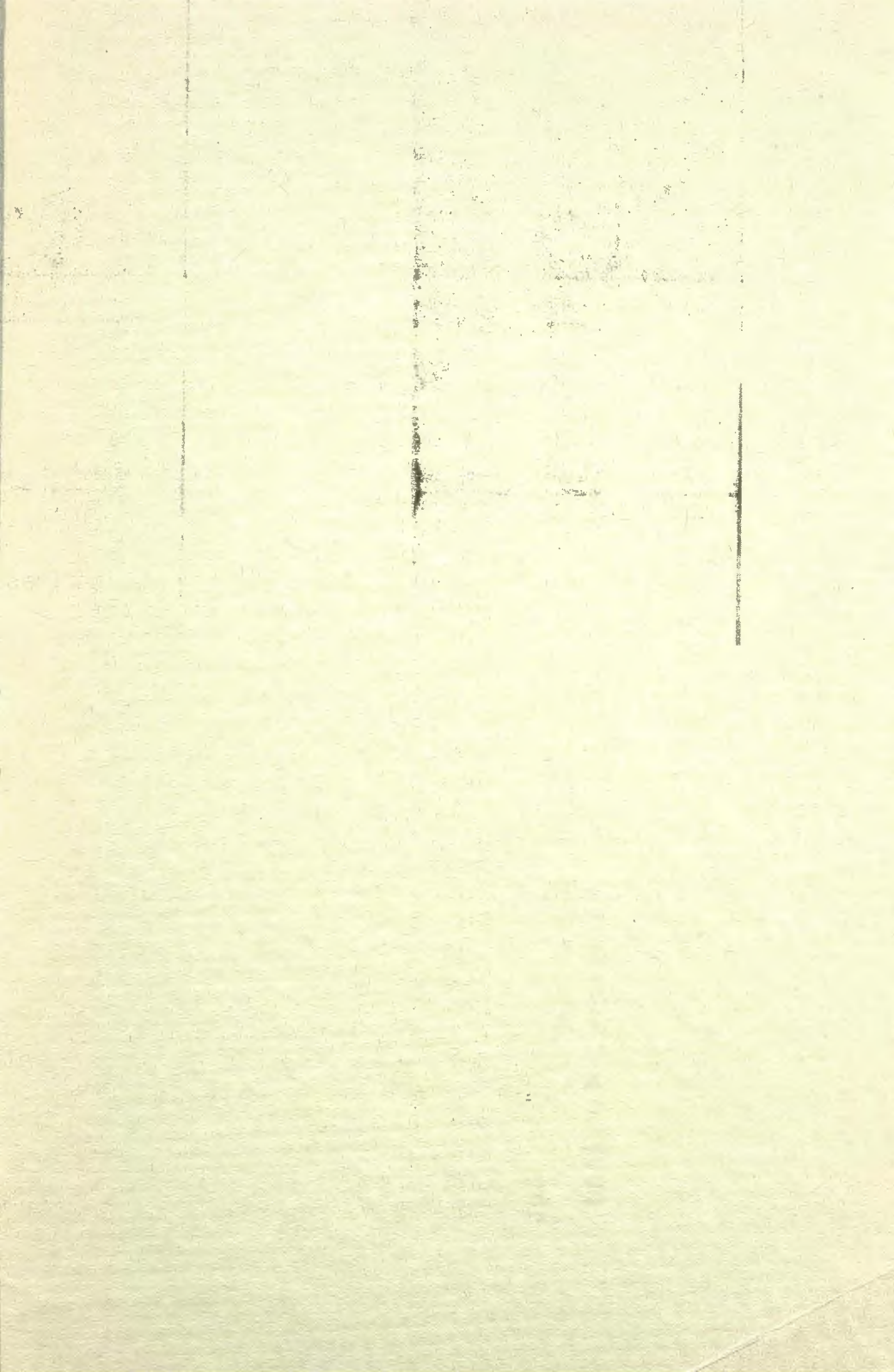
GALLERY NOTES: Captain Laurence Sickman of the Army Air Force, who is on leave of absence from his position as Curator of Oriental Art in this Gallery, stopped in Kansas City for several days the middle of April. Captain Sickman has just completed the course at the School of Applied Tactics in Orlando, Florida and was en route to his post at Paine Field, Washington.

Miss Lindsay Hughes, Acting Curator of Oriental Art, will give a course in Chinese Art in the Graduate School of Kansas City University from June 6th to July 16th. Anyone interested in further information on the subject and time of meeting may call the Gallery or University.

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CALENDAR FOR MAY

Sun.,	2	-	3:30	-	Special Opening Ceremonies for Dutch Exhibition
Tues.,	4	-	2:00	-	Library - Asiatic Study Club
Wed.,	5	-	8:00	-	Lecture - Modigliani, Chagall & Soutine - Miss Jackson
Fri.,	7	-	7:45	-	Loan Gallery - Talk, Contempor ary Dutch Art - Miss Jackson
"	7	-	8:15	-	Concert - Pupils of Lois Black Hunt
Sun.,	9	-	3:30	-	Concert - K.C. Conservatory
Tues.,	11	-	10:00	-	Lounge - Aspasia Delphians
"	11	-	10:00	-	Library - Book Club
"	11	-	1:00	-	Library - Art Study Club
Wed.,	12	-	10:00	-	Library - Zeneta Delphians
"	12	-	8:00	-	Lecture - The Surrealists - Miss Jackson
"	12	-	9:00	-	Lounge - Refreshments follow- ing the lecture.
Fri.,	14	-	7:45	-	Gallery 30 - Talk, Sculptures by Irene Hamar - Miss Kem
"	14	-	8:15	-	Concert - K.C. Conservatory
Sun.,	16	-	3:30	-	Program to be announced
Mon.,	17	-	8:15	-	Concert - James O'Connor
Tues.,	18	-	2:00	-	Library - Asiatic Study Club
"	18	-	8:15	-	Concert - Betsy Walters
Wed.,	19	-	8:15	-	Concert - K.C. Conservatory
Thurs.,	20	-	11:00	-	Library - Friends of Art
Fri.,	21	-	7:45	-	Gallery 24 - Talk, Persian Rugs - Miss Hughes.
"	21	-	8:15	-	Concert - K.C. Music Teachers Guild
Sun.,	23	-	3:30	-	Concert - Pupils of Gladys Schnorf.
Tues.,	25	-	10:00	-	Lounge - Aspasia Delphians
Wed.,	26	-	10:00	-	Library - Zeneta Delphians
"	26	-	8:15	-	Concert - Pupils of Miss Hunt
Fri.,	28	-	7:45	-	Gallery 22 - Talk, Persian Bookbindings - Miss Hughes
"	28	-	8:15	-	Concert - Pupils of Miss Concannon
Sun.,	30	-	3:30	-	Concert - Virginia Voigtlander





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